

The Wenstrup Family 18th Century (1700's)

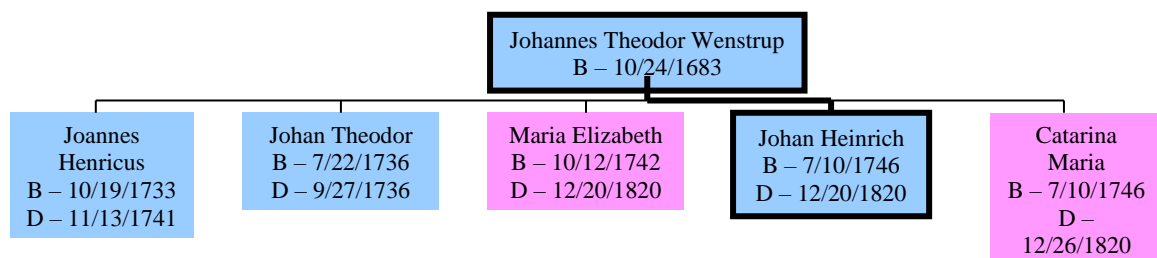
Johannes Theodor Wenstrup (b. 10/24/1683 – d.)

By the turn of the 18th century Johannes Theodor Wenstrup would have already been essentially an adult of 16 years. Being a member of the heuerleuten class, there are no records of his activities during this time. From the birth records at St. Bonifacious, it is known that Johannes had 5 children, thus he must have gotten married early in the 18th century, most likely at St. Bonifacious. There is no record of his wife or her age, but Johannes Theodor would have already been nearly 50 years when his first son was born. Thus it is likely that his wife would have been significantly younger than Johannes Theodor. Their first child was born on October 19, 1733 and was named Joannes Henricus. Joannes Henricus would die at the young age of 8 years in November of 1741.

When Joannes Henricus was only 2 years old, Johannes Theodor Wenstrup and his wife had a second son. He was born in July of 1736 and named Johan Theodor. Johan Theodor would live only 2 months and die in September of that same year, 1736.

One year after the death of Joannes Henricus, and six years after the death of Johan Theodor; Johannes Theodor Wenstrup and his wife would have their first daughter. Born on October 12, of 1742, they would name her Maria Elizabeth Wenstrup. Maria Elizabeth would live a very long life for the times and not die until December of 1820 at the age of 78 years.

In July of 1746, when Maria Elizabeth would have been 3 years old, Johannes Theodor Wenstrup and his wife had twins. One boy and one girl born on July 10, 1746. The boy was named Johan Heinrich and would continue the Wenstrup lineage that would eventually emigrate to the United States. Johan Heinrich would die on the same day as his sister Maria Elizabeth, December 20, 1820, at the age of 74 years. Johan Heinrich's twin sister was named Catarina Maria, and would die 6 days after Maria Elizabeth and Johan Heinrich, also at the age of 74 years.



19. Diagram showing Johannes Theodor Wenstrup and his 5 children.

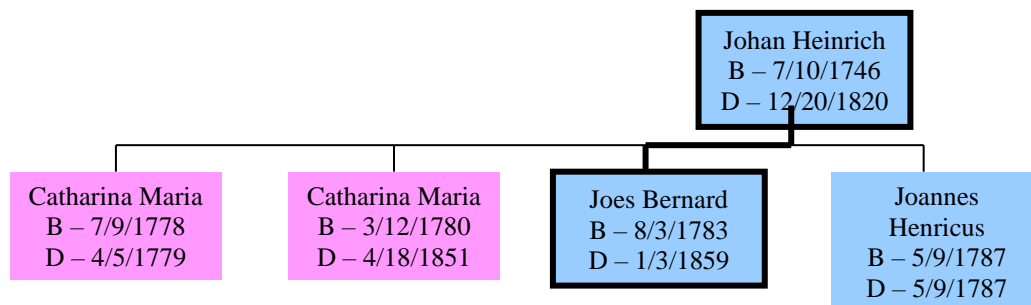
Although he was the third son born to Johannes Theodor and his wife, Johan Heinrich was the only son they had which lived to adulthood, thus he would have been the family heir of whatever landed property Johannes Theodor might have acquired. It is unclear if the Wenstrup farmhouse that Carl Friedrich would later live in may have been owned by the family at this time.

Johan Heinrich Wenstrup (b. 7/10/1746 – d. 12/20/1820)

Johan Heinrich would himself go on to have 4 children. The oldest two being daughters both named Catherina Maria. This was not uncommon during the time, especially when the eldest had died prior to the birth of the second daughter as was the case here. Johan Heinrich's first daughter, Catherina Maria, was born on July 9, 1778 and would die within the first year on April 5, 1779. Johan Heinrich and his wife's second daughter named Catherina Maria was born on March 12, 1780. She lived to be 71 years old and died on April 18, 1851.

Johan Heinrich and his wife's first son was born on August 3, 1783 and was named Joes Bernard Wenstrup. Joes Bernard would live for 75 years, dying on January 3, of 1859. It would be Joes Bernard's children and grandchildren that would emigrate to the United States.

Johan Heinrich and his wife's second son, Joannes Henricus was born on May 9, 1787, but would die at birth.



20. Diagram showing Johan Heinrich Wenstrup and his 4 children.

Similar to his father (Johan Heinrich) before him, Joes Bernard was the eldest son and thus would have been heir to any landed property owned by Johan Heinrich. Again it is not clear if the farmhouse from which Carl Friedrich and family would later emigrate was owned by Joes Bernard at this time.

Johan Heinrich like his father before him would have been a member of the Heuerleuten class. It is known that many of the Wenstrup family who were members of this class were carpenters at the time. On the farm adjacent to the Pension Wahlde (a

local Pension / Inn owned and operated today by members of the Jans-Wenstrup family – Daniel and Gabby), and just outside of Neuenkirchen is a barn on a neighboring farm that bears the signature of an H. Wenstrup in the doorway as one of the carpenters which built this barn. It is not known what relation to Johan Heinrich this H. Wenstrup is, but it is suspected that his name was Herman, a common name used in the family at that time. The construction of the barn with H. Wenstrup signature is shown to be from the year of 1766.



21. Doorway of the barn adjacent to the Pension Wahlde near Neuenkirchen and the Wenstrup farms showing that it was constructed in 1766 by a H. Wenstrup.